

# Selected Population Demographics Profile

## Frequently Asked Questions

### American Community Survey Data

#### **1. Why is the American Community Survey (ACS) data different for some counties or not available at all?**

##### For populations over 65,000:

The ACS produces one-year estimates annually for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more. One-year estimates include data on disabled populations.

##### For areas with populations between 20,000 and 65,000:

The ACS produces 3-year estimates annually for geographic areas with a population of 20,000 – 65,000 residents. The most recent disability information for these areas is from the years 2005-2007. For these areas the 3 year estimates from 2007 are used. These disability characteristic categories differ from the 2009 1-year estimates for populations over 65,000. Currently, only information from the years 2005-2007 provides disability information. 3-year estimates for the year 2009 do not include information about disability characteristics.

##### For areas below population 20,000:

In 2010, the Census Bureau released the first 5-year estimates for areas smaller than 20,000 residents. The 5 year estimates are based on ACS data collected from the years 2005 through 2009. In 2008 the questions pertaining to disability data changed. This resulted in the 5-year estimates not including any disability data.

#### **2. What should I do if no American Community Survey disability information is available for my area?**

It is suggested that localities without current disability information refer to the disability data of surrounding locations. Rates of disabled populations can be used as a general guideline for determining likely rates of disability for areas within close proximity.

More comprehensive disability data will be released for more areas as it becomes available.

### Medicaid Data

#### **3. How were the categories of services provided for by Medicaid determined?**

The categories of Medicaid services in Table 2 reflect the general Medicaid codes used by CMS. Medicaid codes describe the type of services and equipment utilized by Medicaid beneficiaries. The codes contained in the demographic profile are believed to be the most likely equipment and services that will require accommodation in emergency shelters.

**4. Does the Medicaid data include people who live in institutionalized settings?**

Yes. At this time, there is no way to separate Medicaid data collected about individuals who reside at home and individuals who reside in an institutionalized setting.

**Census Data**

**5. Why is Census population data from the year 2000?**

The Census population data presented in this profile is divided by zip code. 2010 Census data at the zip code level is not yet available. General population levels by zip code will be released as that information becomes available.

**6. Why is some of the zip code level Census data left blank?**

The US Postal Office creates new and changes existing zip codes regularly. If population data for a specific zip code is unavailable from the 2000 Census data, this is likely because the zip code did not exist in 2000.